

# Col. Howard New Executive Officer at OAC

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Col. Ward C. Howard, ordnance officer who commanded Joliet Arsenal in 1947, has been appointed executive officer of the Ordnance Ammunition Command here. It was announced Saturday by Brig. Gen. Robert G. Butler, OAC commander.

As executive officer and chief administrative assistant, Col. Howard will aid Gen. Butler in directing the Army's nationwide ammunition program, which is centralized at OAC. This program includes the procurement of ammunition parts from thousands of commercial firms and the supervision of 26 Ordnance Corps ammunition plants throughout the country, as well as ammunition engineering, control of the nation's ammunition stockpiles, and other related functions.

A VETERAN of more than four years of combat service during World War II and in Korea, Col. Howard has been awarded several important Army decorations. These include the Bronze Star Medal for Heroism, for his combat service in the Philippines in 1944; the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service, resulting from combat performance in the New Guinea campaign in 1943; the Presidential Unit Citation, which he received as a member of the 163rd Infantry Regiment in the Buna campaign in New Guinea in 1943; and the Legion of Merit, awarded for "exceptionally meritorious" combat service in the 1953 Korean fighting.

While in Korea in 1953-54, Colonel Howard was ordnance officer of the First U. S. Corps. After his return to the United States, he was assigned to the Ordnance Ammunition Command last month, and was appointed executive officer on October 1 by General Butler.

A native of Spokane, Washington, Col. Howard graduated from the University of Idaho in 1937 with a bachelor of laws degree. In 1939 he was commissioned as a captain in the Army Ordnance Corps and for the next three years was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, where he became Ordnance officer of the 41st Division.

IN MARCH 1942, Col. Howard went to Australia with the 41st, which was the first U. S. Army division to be sent overseas in World War II. For the next three years, except for special assignments, he remained with this division all through the New

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Guinea fighting from Buna to Biak to the Philippines.

He returned to the U. S. in June 1945 as a lieutenant colonel, and spent the following year as executive officer of the Ordnance Board at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. He came to Joliet Arsenal as executive officer in October 1946, and then succeeded Col. C. D. Hudson as commanding officer of the local ammunition plant.

From 1947 to 1949, Col. Howard attended the University of Michigan, when he was awarded the degree of master of business administration in 1949.

After a year's service in the Office of the Chief of Ordnance in Washington, he was transferred to the Sierra Ordnance Depot in California, where he was executive officer until his departure for Korea in 1953.

Colonel Howard is married to the former Martha Kilmann of Kellogg, Idaho. They now live on the post at Joliet Arsenal with their son Chane, 14, a student at Joliet Township High School.

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